

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 8 and 11-25 have been amended and claims 1, 26, 28 and 38 have been previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-25, 27, 29-37 and 39-41 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and the remarks to follow.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 9, 10, 27, 29-37 and 39-41 are indicated (Summary; p. 10, item 7; page 11, item 8) to be allowed and claims 21-23 are indicated (Summary; p. 10, items 7.1 and 8) to contain allowable subject matter and thus are allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the recitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21-23 have been so re-written and thus are allowable. Claims 2-5, 8 and 11-25 have been amended to depend from allowable claims. Accordingly, the pending claims are allowable over the art of record.

Improper Reference:

The Office Action indicates (p. 2, item 2.1; page 3, item 3) that the amendment updating the material referenced is improper. The amendment to the specification corrects the serial no. of the application that is referenced. The Examiner is thanked for noting this error and bringing such to Applicant's attention.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 2-8, 11-20, 24 and 25 stand variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over combinations of U.S. Patent No. 5,668,995 to Bhat (hereinafter "Bhat"), U.S. Patent No. 6,108,800 to Asawa (hereinafter "Asawa"), U.S. Patent No. 6,301,615 to Kutcher (hereinafter "Kutcher"), U.S. Patent No. 6,317,778 to Dias et al. (hereinafter "Dias"); U.S. Patent No. 5,838,919 to Schwaller et al. (hereinafter "Schwaller"); or U.S. Patent No. 6,209,033 to Datta et al. (hereinafter "Datta"). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8, 11-20, 24 and 25 are not unpatentable over the cited references and requests reconsideration.


However, in the spirit of cooperation and in order to advance the prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended the claims to place them in allowable form. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims that have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections are moot.

Conclusion

Claims 2-25, 27, 29-37 and 39-41 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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